

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:EHICKS/DCJOHNSON

APPROVED BY ARA:TTODMAN

ARA:FDEVINE

ARA/CEN:MBOVA

ARA:GLISTER

D/HA:KHILL

L:FARMSTRONG

ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS

P- D.TICE

S/S- MR. SEBASTIAN

-----301734Z 083038 /53

O 301722Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 098384

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM TODMAN

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SHUM, ES

SUBJECT:RELATIONS WITH THE GOES: NEXT PHASE

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR DEPARTURE ON OR ABOUT JUNE 1,
WE WISH CAREFULLY AND EMPHATICALLY TO ADDRESS WITH THE GOES
(I.E., MOLINA AND PRESIDENT-ELECT ROMERO) SALIENT IRRITANTS
IN OUR CURRENT BILATERAL RELATIONS. MOST PARTICULARLY, WE
WISH TO UNDERSCORE THE CONTINUITY AND DEPTH OF OUR CONCERN
ON THE RICHARDSON CASE IN PARTICULAR. VIEWS RECENTLY
COMMUNICATED FROM THE POST HAVE BEEN GIVEN CAREFUL CON-
SIDERATION IN THIS CONTEXT. THE STRATEGY OUTLINED BELOW
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IS ONE WE DEEM MOST EFFECTIVE.

2. YOU SHOULD ARRANGE A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOLINA
TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 16. THE NEW ARA/CEN
COUNTRY DIRECTOR, WADE MATTHEWS, WILL MAKE A TRIP SPECIFI-
CALLY TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND WITH YOU. YOU SHOULD ALSO
ARRANGE FOR A COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT-ELECT ROMERO TO

OCCUR ON THE SAME DAY BUT SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING WITH MOLINA.

3. AT THE MEETING WITH MOLINA, YOU SHOULD INFORM HIM THAT BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS, WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR A COURTESY CALL BY MR. MATTHEWS ON ROMERO.

4. THE FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE MADE:

-- FIRST, EXPRESS OUR CONCERN AND DEEP REGRET OVER FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO'S KIDNAPPING AND OUR AWARENESS OF THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND CHALLENGES CONFRONTING THE GOES AT THIS TIME AND OUR DESIRE TO REMOVE YET ANOTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR - NAMELY, THE PRESENT TENSION IN US/GOES RELATIONS. MATTHEWS DOES NOT PLAN TO MEET WITH OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT. HE WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS PRESENCE TO SPEAK TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL, HOWEVER, TO MAKE CLEAR THE UNABATING RESOLVE OF WASHINGTON TO PURSUE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND TO CONFER ON ANY OTHER ISSUE OF INTEREST TO THE EMBASSY.

-- UNDERSCORE THE USG'S SERIOUS CONTINUING DISSATISFACTION OVER GOES REACTION ON THE RICHARDSON CASE.

-- INDICATE THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO RESOLVE THIS IRRITANT IN OUR RELATIONS .

-- ALSO SPEAK TO THE MORE GENERAL QUESTION OF TREATMENT
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OF AMERICANS, CITING RECENT PROBLEMS WITH AMERICAN CLERGY-MEN.

-- SPECIFICALLY REFER TO OUR PROTEST CONCERNING THE QUESTIONABLE TREATMENT OF FATHER BERNARD SURVIL AND THE LACK OF READY ACCESS FOR CONSULAR OFFICERS TO TRACY NIELSEN.

-- STATE THAT WE SEEK FROM EL SALVADOR ASSURANCES THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT WILL OBSERVE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF DETAINEES AND PRISONERS.

-- MAKE CLEAR THAT IF NO SUCH ASSURANCES CAN BE PROVIDED, AND IF AMERICANS CONTINUE TO BE THE OBJECT OF QUESTIONABLE TREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF SALVADORAN OFFICIALS, THAT WE WILL BE FORCED TO CONSIDER EL SALVADOR A PLACE WHERE AMERICANS SAFETY AND RIGHTS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND WILL SO CAUTION THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

-- INDICATE THAT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE

FULL FINDINGS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INVESTIGATION.

-- NOTE THAT WE HOPE TO AVOID REACHING SUCH A STAGE SINCE WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AMERICAN TOURISM TO EL SALVADOR, AND OF THE NEED FOR POSITIVE CLIMATE FOR AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN CONTEMPLATING INVESTMENT IN THAT COUNTRY.

-- END IN A COUNTERBALANCING POSITIVE VEIN BY STATING THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE EXACERBATED RELATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR AND WOULD HOPE THAT THESE REASONABLE REQUESTS CAN BE MET SOON SO WE CAN RESTORE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE FRIENDLY TENOR OF OUR RELATIONS.

-- MATTHEWS IN PARTICULAR, WILL NOTE THAT YOUR DEPARTURE IN NO WISE DENOTES ANY DIMINUTION IN THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENSITY AND MOMENTUM ON THESE AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS
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MATTERS.

5. ELEANOR HICKS WILL BE BEARING SAME GENERAL MESSAGES AS MATTHEWS DURING HER MEETINGS WITH SALVADORAN OFFICIALS. WE HOPE IN THIS MANNER TO STRESS THE CONTINUITY OF USG POLICY AND THUS DISPEL ANY ERRONEOUS NOTION THAT USG HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN EL SALVADOR OR ON THE RICHARDSON CASE MAY HAVE BEEN MERELY A PERSONAL PREOCCUPATION OF A FEW EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

6. WE ASSUME THE GOES WILL CONTINUE TO FIND IT DIFFICULT OR UNTENABLE (FOR WHATEVER REASON) TO PROVIDE US TRULY RESPONSIVE INFORMATION ON THE RICHARDSON CASE. WE ALSO ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT ROMERO DOES WISH TO REMOVE THAT ALBATROSS FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S NECK BEFORE HE ASSUMES POWER IN JULY. IF THESE ASSUMPTIONS ARE CORRECT, WE EXPECT THAT WE CAN OBTAIN FROM HIM ASSURANCES, PREFERABLY IN WRITING (POSSIBLY COUCHED AS A RESPONSE TO OUR PROTEST NOTE OVER SURVIL AND NIELSEN), THAT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS OF TREATMENT OF DETAINEES OR PRISONERS WILL BE MAINTAINED AND THAT THE SAFETY AND RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN EL SALVADOR WILL NOT BE IN QUESTION WHILE IN THE CUSTODY OF SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES. WE WILL STILL STRESS OUR DISMAY OVER THE UNSATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF THE RICHARDSON INVESTIGATION ASSUMING IT, IN FACT, STILL PROVES UNENLIGHTENING.

7. WE WILL WISH TO DECIDE, IN LIGHT OF THE NATURE OF THE RESPONSES ON THESE PARTICULAR MATTERS AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR ASSESSMENT OF GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN EL SALVADOR, WHETHER WE CAN IN GOOD CONSCIENCE SIGN

THE FY 77 SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. THIS LATTER
POINT SHOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES,
BE CONVEYED TO THE GOES, HOWEVER.

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8. THE EXACT TIME OF THE MEETING, OF COURSE, WILL BE
AT YOUR DISCRETION AND WE REALIZE MAY BE AFFECTED BY
RAMIFICATIONS OF EVENTS RELATED TO FOREIGN MINISTER
BORGONOVO'S ABDUCTION OR OTHER INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOP-
MENTS.
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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